

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 9-22 are now present in this application, with claims 5-8 being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. New claims 14-22 have been added, wherein claim 1 and new claim 14 are the sole independent claims remaining in connection with the present application.

DRAWING OBJECTIONS

Initially, the Examiner has objected to the drawings, alleging that Figs. 8A-8C and 9A-9C should be labeled at "PRIOR ART". Accordingly, in the enclosed Drawing Correction Approval Request, Applicants have amended the drawings as requested by the Examiner. Approval of this Drawing Correction Approval Request is respectfully requested. Upon receiving approval, Applicants will submit formal drawings in connection with the present application.

With regard to the Examiner's mention of Fig. 9C, Applicants note that the relevancy of Fig. 9C is discussed throughout the background of the present application, including, for example, on page 4, lines 19-25. Applicants note that the brief description of the drawings initially failed to mention Fig. 9C and thus have amended that portion of the specification in order to reference Fig. 9C. Approval of this amendment to the specification is also respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 2, 5, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the rejection, Applicants note that this rejection has been rendered moot with regard to claims 5-7, based upon their cancellation

Applicants have amended the claim to clarify the claim and hence render the rejection moot.

2 are non-narrowing amendments. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Initially, the Examiner has rejected claims 5-9 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mori et al. and has rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Mori et al. in view of Sugimoto et al. Applicants note that these rejections have been rendered moot in view of the cancellation of independent claim 5 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, and the cancellation of the dependency of claims 9-13 on independent claim 5. Based upon the current amendment, claims 9-13 are only dependent upon independent claim 1 of the present application. Thus, the sole remaining rejection in connection with the present application is that of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Matthews et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 of the present application has been amended to clarify that at least one of the pair of sealing portions is provided with at least one constricted portion, wherein the at least one constricted portion "is formed in an area of the sealing portion where the metal foil is disposed". This is supported, for example in Fig. 1, wherein it can be seen that at least one constricted portion 26 is formed in an area of the sealing portion 20' where the metal foil 24' is disposed. It should be noted that this is only one example of the present application, upon which claim 1 reads.

Contrary to that set forth in claim 1 of the present application, Matthews et al. even assuming *arguendo* that it includes a constricted portion 25 as alleged by the Examiner, arguably

For example, when viewing Fig. 2, it is clear that the alleged constricted portion 25 is outside the area

of the envelope 12, that includes the foil 30. Since the present invention as claimed in claim 1 includes "at least one constricted portion formed in the area of the sealing portion where the metal foil is disclosed", the sealing structure of the sealing portion can be maintained for a long time. As such, the lifetime of the lamp can be prolonged as discussed, for example, on page 10, lines 8-12 and on page 8, lines 7-20 of the present application. As the Matthews et al. lamp does not include the constricted portion as recited in independent claim 1, Matthews et al. cannot meet at least such a limitation. Accordingly, claim 1 is clearly patentable over the Matthews et al. reference and withdrawal of this rejection, including the rejection of all claims dependent thereon, is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIMS

Applicants have further added new claims 14-22 in connection with the present application. New claim 14 includes at least a limitation which is also present in dependent claim 4, indicating that at least one of the constricted portions is formed in an area between an end of the electrode and an end of the external lead of at least one of the sealing portions. When viewing Fig. 2 of Matthews et al., for example, it is clear that such a limitation is not met since the constricted portion is clearly outside the area between the lead and the electrode shown attached to foil 30. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 14, and all claims dependent thereon is also allowable over the Matthews et al. reference.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of all with the present application is earnestly solicited.

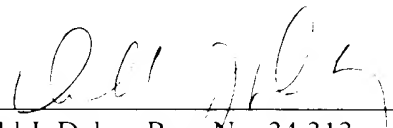
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley, Reg. No. 34,313 at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By


Donald J. Daley, Reg. No. 34,313

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 390-3030

MARKED UP VERSION OF SPECIFICATION

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Figs. 9A₂ [and] 9B and 9C are views for illustrating the problems of the conventional discharge lamp 1000. --

MARKED UP VERSION OF CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A discharge lamp comprising:

a luminous bulb in which a luminous material is enclosed and a pair of electrodes are opposed in the luminous bulb; and

a pair of sealing portions for sealing a pair of metal foils electrically connected to the pair of electrodes, respectively;

wherein at least one of the pair of sealing portions is provided with at least one constricted portion whose length in a [thickness] direction substantially perpendicular to the surface of the metal foil in the sealing portion is smaller than that of other portions in the sealing portion and wherein at least one of the constricted portions is formed in an area of the sealing portion where the metal foil is disposed.
2. (Amended) The discharge lamp of claim 1, wherein at least one of the constricted portions is provided in a portion [on] relatively nearer to the luminous bulb side, rather than a center of the sealing portion.
9. (Amended) The discharge lamp of claim 1 [or 5], wherein each of the pair of sealing portions has a shrink seal structure.

sealing portions on a side opposite to the luminous bulb side are required.

11. (Amended) The discharge lamp of claim 1 [or 5], wherein each of the pair of metal foils is attached tightly to a glass portion extended from the luminous bulb, and
each of the pair of metal foils is a molybdenum foil.
12. (Amended) The discharge lamp of claim 1 [or 5], wherein the luminous material comprises at least mercury.
13. (Amended) A lamp unit comprising the discharge lamp of claim 1 [or 5] and a reflecting mirror for reflecting light emitted from the discharge lamp.